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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,258	10/11/2005	Tetsuyoshi Nakata	2271/75303	1685

23432 7590 11/19/2010  
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EXAMINER
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HUFFMAN, JULIAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/19/2010

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

***Response to Arguments***

The applicant argues that in Sugimura, the recording paper is moved rearward once, and that this is the proper interpretation of the context of paragraph [0067] of the reference.

A Technical Translator at the USPTO was consulted to determine the proper translation of paragraph [0067]. It is noted for the record that paragraph [0067] is interpreted as follows:

[0067]

With the ink jet printer (10) in Figure 8, the recording paper (P) is transported, and when the recording paper (P) is detected by the sensor (20), in consideration of the time lag due to the distance between the center position of the sensor (20) and the edge of the ink head (101), the recording paper (P) is *temporarily moved backwards*, and is printed by the ink head (101). In this manner, even if the arrangement of the sensor (20) is as shown in Figure 8, by suitably controlling the transport of the recording paper (P), printing over the entire surface becomes possible.

Therefore, it is clear that the correct interpretation is "temporarily moved backwards". Therefore, based upon this interpretation, which differs slightly from that provided by the applicant, but nevertheless expresses the same concept, the applicant's

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characterization of Sugimura is accurate. That is, the examiner and the applicant appear to agree on the factual interpretation of Sugimura.

The relevant claim language recites that "a controller receives detection information from said state detector when said state detector detects the edge of the recording medium in the main-scanning direction for each main-scanning of said carriage, and the controller determines therefrom a position of the edge of the recording medium for the printing operation of a subsequent line".

The claim language generally recites that the paper is conveyed and the edge is detected in a current main scanning to determine a position of the edge of the recording medium for a subsequent line and that this operation is performed for each main scanning. The claim language also states that the printing is conducted in a subsequent main scanning after detection.

Sugimura discloses this since in the embodiment of fig. 8, the edge is detected in a current main scanning to determine a position of the edge of the recording medium for a subsequent line. Here, the subsequent line is disclosed by Sugimura since the paper is temporarily moved backwards after detection so as to enable printing of a subsequent line in a subsequent main scanning that occurs temporally after the main scanning during which detection occurred.

That is, since Sugimura separates the sensor and nozzles by the distance  $d_2$ , the sensing of an edge is conducted in a first main scanning across a region of the

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paper, then the temporary backwards feed is conducted, and then the printing is conducted across the region of the paper that was detected in the previous main scanning. Therefore, the printing occurs in a subsequent line.

The applicant's arguments have been reconsidered in light of the proper translation of Sugimura. The applicant appears to argue that the embodiment of fig. 8 is a variation of the embodiment of figs. 3 and 4, where printing and detection are performed during one main scanning operation (paragraphs [0026], [0027], and [0050] are cited for support).

Therefore, it appears that applicant has argued that the printing and scanning occur in one main scanning. However, Sugimura states that the paper is temporarily moved backwards after detection so that printing can occur on the scanned region using the memorized edges of the medium to stop printing at the edges. Therefore, Sugimura does not print and detect in the same scan in the embodiment of fig. 8 and thus Sugimura discloses the step of determining a position of the edge for a subsequent line as claimed. It is further noted that the language "subsequent line" is not further clarified and therefore subject to various broad interpretations.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2147. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00a.m.-6:30p.m. Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Julian D. Huffman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853